

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Shalymar D. Cruz and I live in New Britain, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days.

I am a social worker in training with many years in service of youth in our state. I feel it is my duty to advocate for the youth that I work with, for myself and my community.

In order to keep the work force consistent and limit obstacles to lower employee turnover in addition to ensure the health of our overall population, paid sick time for everyone is important. We do not live in silos we live in communities and it is the lack of paid sick time that contributed to the rapid spread of not just COVID but also any other diseases and sickness that can be spread through interaction with others. We get people to invest in their communities and jobs by taking care of the workers without that there is no consistent work force.

The Governor agrees with me as he is also trying to expand paid sick days and I am grateful for his support. However, we need a paid sick days policy that is more in alignment with the one highlighted in SB 1178. I need an expansive definition of family, 80 hours of paid sick days, access regardless of employer size, elimination of the waiting period for use, quicker accrual, and protection during the pandemic.

Thank you for your time,  
Shalymar Cruz New Britain, CT